



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 1, 2007

Contact: Derryl Acosta (858) 688-9163 (cell)
(858) 514-3211 (office)

TEENS TO ENTER ALTERNATE REALITY *Juvenile Hall Open House Reveals Life Behind the Razor Wire*

Thousands of teenagers are about to enter a world without the freedoms many take for granted -- no cell phones, My Space, or Play Station. It's a world known as Juvenile Hall, which will hold an Open House hosted by the Probation Department and Juvenile Court on Saturday, May 19 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at 2801 Meadow Lark Drive.

Annually, more than 3,000 people come for the 45-minute behind the scenes tour of Juvenile Hall, where visiting youth get a military-style shakedown by probation officers as well as a first-hand look at what life is like for detainees at the facility. Booths in the parking lot will feature information on juvenile delinquency prevention, intervention, and rehabilitation programs.

"Many parents come asking for help with their impressionable youth. It can be a scary world for families raised in neighborhoods infested with gangs, violence, and drugs," says Chief Probation Officer Vincent Iaria. "Fortunately, there are many wholesome activities and programs available to those who seek them."

For the first time ever, low-rider cars and bicycles will be on display in the parking lot, compliments of the Low Rider Community of San Diego. Those who attend can also get information on mental health treatment, domestic violence prevention, legal assistance, and an array of Probation programs targeting rehabilitation and community safety. The history of the Probation Department will also be highlighted to celebrate its 100 year anniversary.

Current detainees in Juvenile Hall will be out of view so media is permitted to photograph any part of the tour. Probation staff will be available for interviews upon request.

###